

Adam West 1928-2017

Farewell to a real-life hero



With wife Marcelle in 2012 getting his Walk of Fame Star.

His portrayal of the Caped Crusader in the original 1960s *Batman* TV series endeared him to generations of viewers worldwide.

And now fans of Adam West are in mourning after the beloved 88-year-old actor lost his short battle with leukaemia, passing away at his LA home on June 9.

The TV icon's family, including his wife of 47 years, Marcelle, and his six kids, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren – confirmed the sad news through a spokesperson. "Our dad always saw himself as The Bright Knight and aspired to make a positive impact on his fans' lives. He was, and always will be, our hero."

Co-stars have also shared their condolences in the days since his passing. Burt Ward, who played his sidekick Robin, is devastated by the loss of his friend. "Adam and I had a special friendship for more than 50 years," he said. "We shared some of the most fun times of our lives together."

"Our families have deep love and respect for each other. This is a terribly unexpected loss of my lifelong friend. I will forever miss him."

Julie Newmar, who played

Stars and fans alike pay tribute to Hollywood's original Batman

Catwoman in the cult series, which launched in 1966 and ran for 120 episodes over three years, has also expressed her sorrow, calling Adam "a king to the end".

"He was bright, witty and fun to work with," she said. "I will miss him in the physical world and savour him always in the world of imagination and creativity. He meant so much to people."

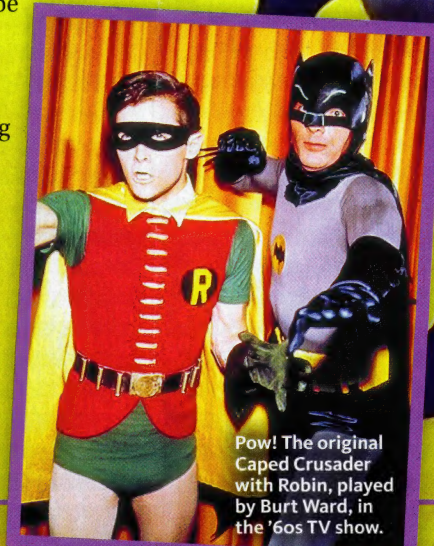
While Adam is synonymous with the Caped Crusader, the actor admitted he once saw the role as a poisoned chalice. "There was a time when Batman really kept me from getting some pretty good roles," he said in one interview.

Still, Adam says, it didn't stop him from being incredibly grateful for the iconic role.

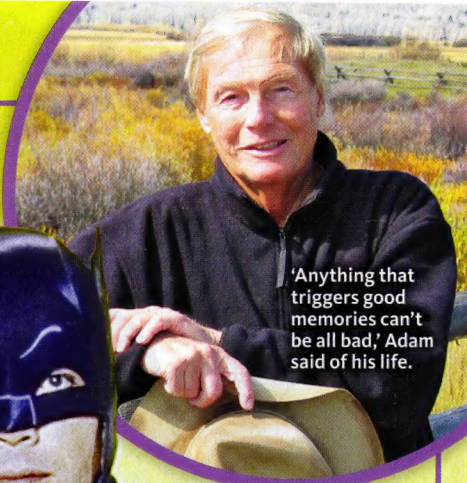
"I decided that since so many people love *Batman*, I might as well love it too. Why not? I saw the love people had for it and I just embraced it," he said. In fact, he was still booked to appear at fan conventions when he died.

Adam experienced a new wave of success later in life. A huge fan of his portrayal of Batman, *Family Guy* creator Seth MacFarlane penned a role for Adam as the mayor in the animated series, which went on to be a big hit. "I am beyond fortunate to have had the privilege of working with him and he will be profoundly missed by all of us," Seth said after Adam's passing.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have given, Mr Mayor. You're irreplaceable."



Pow! The original Caped Crusader with Robin, played by Burt Ward, in the '60s TV show.



'Anything that triggers good memories can't be all bad,' Adam said of his life.



Words: Tiffany Dunk. Pictures: Getty Images.